

Minutes – Sept. 24, 2015  
Neighborhoods 2020 committee of the NCEC

Location: Shingle Creek Commons, 4600 Humboldt Ave N

1. Introductions made.

Members Present: Eric Gustafson, Israel Ishmael, David Boyd, Jeff Strand, Antoine Martinneau

2. Agenda approved-August draft minutes amended and approved

3. Work scope and timeline reviewed

4. Many comments received on survey indicated a lack of communication between neighborhood orgs and NCEC.

Consensus: 2020 committee's work should be presented to and made amendable by NCEC body during formal comment period or before City Council will be engaged prior to January comment period, i.e. this fall, get feedback on timeline.

Survey. 1/3 of neighborhood orgs have responded, due date extended through October. Engagement question is not proving effective, many gave very shallow answers. Those who went deeper often mentioned renters. Resource questions often indicated need for training for boards and volunteers, along with more responsiveness, transparency and support from city departments. Smaller volunteer only orgs can be very successful, as can those that focus on grant funding vs. city funding

\*What are some characteristics of orgs that do this well? Does the average resident know/get trained to appropriately fulfill their duties as an elected board director? Holding staff and other board members accountable to their fiduciary duties?

Surprisingly few mentions of support outside of NCR/other city/government entities e.g. CURA, MN Council of Non-Profits.

\*How can the city provide human resources and org management? NCEC can vet consultants and keep a list of these resources to be made available to orgs. Professional training should be highly accessible, which is not the case at this point. City/County resources such as printing mailings can also be enormously helpful. There is a lack of consistent process with city staff; everyone operates differently.

\*2020 committee output includes list of accessible resources for orgs.

Process to build and sustain neighborhood organizations is incredibly cumbersome. Frustrating for neighborhood orgs, fits in with city culture of bureaucracy. Accessible resources for neighborhood orgs needs to be a consistent theme, a primary goal for 2020 committee. Look at baseline needs of neighborhood orgs, see regional opportunities for resource sharing (staff, office etc.)

\*Is allocation formula giving useful results? Can we look at CPP allocation vs. annual budget for individual orgs, see what is causing these results to draw out best practices?

Can we have pro-active development of community members taking leadership? (e.g. new treasurer receives specialized training, gets up and running right away)

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- \*Improved online communication, more sharing of best practices and successful programming,

- \*Standardization of orientation procedures at orgs

5. Next Steps re: engagement of under-represented community and neighborhood organizations:

Ishmael: Put recurring themes into buckets, organize into a progress report, make it clear that this is an opportunity to influence city council decision making.

Eric: Common theme in this work is that we need to engage deeply and widely. That requires increased resources.

David: Want to know racial demographics of elected boards vs communities that they represent

Antoine: Encourage frank and honest answers re: engagement in neighborhood communities. Make barriers clear, also make clear that this survey is not a report to funders.

Jeff: Fact gathering from existing reporting. Recommends exercise of top-methodology. Prepare well-facilitated conversations with neighborhood orgs experiencing varying degrees of success. Questions may include “What can we improve regarding CPP to help you achieve your goals?” “What resources and support do you need to meet the goal of influencing city-level policy??”

- \*NCR has not set up an engagement event. We need to push for one. And soon. Possibly a focus group composed of One Minneapolis grant applicants, luncheon on a Saturday. It would be a 2020 committee operation with NCR staff support.